and in the hills in Chotanagpur Santhal Pargana area of Bihar get the essential commodities being distributed under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if not, whether the Adivasis have to pay higher prices as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to provide the benefits of Public Distribution System to these Adivasis and the people living in the remote rural area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Bihar Government has reported that Adivasis and other people living in remote rural areas get the benefits of Public Distribution System. The population living in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas get foodgrains at Specially subsidised prices which are below the normal PDS prices. The Government have decided to focus attention on the strengthening PDS in selected hill areas, desert areas, tribal areas and drought prone areas.

[English]

Red Oil Palm Cultivation

*602. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have called upon some States to introduce red oil palm cultivation so as to increase the production of edible oil;

(b) if so, the names of these States; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided to these States?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States which have been called upon to introduce red oil palm cultivation are—Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Tripura.

(c) The State Governments have been assured of full assistance of the Central Government in the formulation of the scheme, and help by war of arranging to supply plantation material and also arranging financial assistance through Organisations like NABARD.

Tariff Structure of State Electricity Boards

*603. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has issued some directives to the State Governments to improve the tariff structure of State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these directives also include supply of electricity at reasonable rates,